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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
NORTHEAST ASIA

Polling was done last summer, but the Japanese Foreign Ministry found it possible to publish its returns only now. It turned out that 64 per cent of the pollees answered in the affirmative, saying that Japan will have its nuclear weapons, and only 20 per cent said "no."

Public opinion polls are usually held for considering public sentiment in outlining a certain policy, but in this case the aim was an opposite one--an attempt was thus made to justify by references to the views of Americans, the ambitions of definite circles in Japan seeking to have their own atom bomb.

But an overwhelming majority of the Japanese are quite of a different opinion to this score, which is seen, in particular, from the exhibition devoted to Hiroshima victims, which was mounted recently during the week of actions for disarmament under the slogans: "Ban the Nuclear Weapon" "No to the Neutron Bomb." Photographs on view at the exhibition remind about the horrors of mass extermination of people--300 thousand people, who died in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or as a result of their consequences. The annual peace marches across the country with the participation of thousands of Japanese citizens have already become a tradition. The Japanese delegation was the largest at the special session on disarmament of the UN General Assembly last summer, where a resolute "no" was said to the arms race and aggravation of tensions.

## TENSION IN U.S. -JAPANESE TRADE RELATIONS REVIVED

LD221153Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Nov 78 p 5 LD

[Igor Latyshev report: "Skirmish Between Rivals"]

[Text] Tokyo--Tension can be observed again in Japanese-U.S. trade relations. Business circles here are protesting against the U.S. Treasury Department's decision to impose "antidumping taxes" on Japanese television sets which, as is well known, have flooded the U.S. domestic market recently. This decision is assessed in Tokyo as scheming by its rivals--U.S. firms manufacturing similar products--and at the same time as evidence of the intensification of protectionist trends in Washington's policy. The present influx of Japanese goods onto the U.S. domestic market has led to disproportions in the balance of trade between the capitalist world's two major countries. Whereas in 1977 the United States' trade deficit with Japan was over \$8 billion, this year it has reached almost the same sum in the first 9 months of the year alone.

In this connection, the United States is increasing pressure on Japan. In particular, Washington is demanding that Tokyo remove the various excise obstacles impeding increased imports of U.S. goods onto the Japanese market. It is primarily agricultural produce which is involved. But in Japan these demands are meeting with resistance from influential organizations uniting the food producers.

Trade negotiations between representatives of the Japanese and U.S. Governments in Geneva suffered another failure. Japan was also highly skeptical about the results of the new round of these negotiations in the United States. The Japanese side has blamed the United States both for the distortions in the two countries' balance of trade and for the currency and financial disorders in the international accounts system connected with the sharp drop in the dollar exchange rate. The Japanese press believes that the two countries' economic confrontation may soon be resumed with new force. This forecast is confirmed by the very nature of the contradictions between the United States and Japan which reflect the fight for world capitalist markets.

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S  
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

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TASS CITES CASTRO STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN ON MIG-23 JETS

LD222035Y Moscow TASS in English 1916 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Havana, November 22, TASS--An exposure of the hypocritical nature of the United States Government's so-called "concern" over Soviet-made MIG-23 jets on Ju1a came from the first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party CC, president of the State Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic Cuba Fidel Castro. Cuba is making no secret of having these tactical, purely defensive aircraft, he said during a meeting with a group of Cuban and foreign journalists. These are by no means strategic planes. Therefore, one cannot help but wonder at the laughable intentions of the U.S. to use this propagandist farce for creating an atmosphere of a so-called "crisis." The question arises why did the American Government need to create this artificial problem? It would be much more natural for Cuba to show concern over the hundreds of B-52 bombers and thousands of other strategic aircraft, and also the scores of thousands of nuclear bombs possessed by the USA.

'Provocative' U.S. Assertions

LD229138Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1750 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[From 'International Diary Program,' conducted by Boris Andrianov]

[Text] REUTER reports from Havana: The Cuban Air Force has for about a year had at its disposal Soviet Mig-23 aircraft of defensive type. This was stated in the Cuban capital today by Fidel Castro, chairman of the State Council and prime minister of Cuba.

The report notes that this statement was made in connection with the campaign which recently began in U.S. press, the initiators of which allege that the USSR has supplied Cuba with aircraft capable of carrying nuclear arms thus had allegedly violated the Soviet-U.S. accord of 1962. The groundlessness of such assertions is equalled by their provocative nature. A few days ago PRAVDA, sweeping aside such fantasies of U.S. propaganda, clearly and precisely stated that the Mig-23 aircraft were intended for the defense of the legitimate interests of Cuba and (?rejected) the attempts of certain U.S. circles to arouse a new wave of suspicion toward our country.

BOLIVIAN COUP REPORTED, PROMISE OF ELECTIONS

LD241020Y Moscow TASS in English 0935 GMT 24 Nov 78 LD

[Text] New York, November 24, TASS--It is reported from La Paz that a military coup took place in Bolivia. The president of the country, General Juan Pereda Asbun, has been removed from power. As is said in a communique signed by David Padilla, commander of the Bolivian Land Forces, general elections are soon to be held in the country.

COSTA RICA SEVERS RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

LD220726Y Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Panama City, November 22, TASS--Costa Rica broke off diplomatic relations with Nicaragua on Tuesday after troops of the National Guards of Nicaragua crossed the border of Costa Rica in the area of Penas Blancas. There are killed and wounded as a result of the clash.